

Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

Volume 6, Number 3

Autumn 2007

An Akron Haunting?

By Iris Bolar, Librarian

By 1955, Eula Bonham had been a matron at the Summit County Juvenile Detention Home, which was located on Power Street for 16 years. The 59-year-old matron was considered a motherly figure by some of the youth there, and Mrs. Bonham described her troubled young charges as “my girls” to those she knew. December 1, 1955 was the date Mrs. Bonham had planned to remarry. Instead of a wedding, her funeral was held on that date. Years later, some Akronites believe her ghost haunts the Power Street facility where she was killed.

On the night of November 27, 1955, five teenage girls carried out their plan to escape from the Detention Home. They overpowered Mrs. Bonham, bound her arms and legs with cloth belts from their dresses, and gagged her with a cloth soaked in ammonia. Bonham was left on the second floor as the girls escaped through a window in the basement. The matron died instantly from suffocation. Following capture or surrender, the girls expressed their remorse for her death. They pleaded guilty to manslaughter and received sentences for prison terms up to 20 years. (continued on page 5)



An agency of Oriana House, Inc. occupies the former Summit County Juvenile Detention Center on Power Street.

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Historic City Directories Online

By Joanne O'Dell, Librarian

Historic Akron City Directories are now available online through our website; <http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/citydirectories/>. This collection of city directories runs from 1871 through 1968, although there is not a city directory for every year. The first 37 of the more than 70 city directories are currently available. More will be added to the website as they become available.

The directories list people living in the Akron area as well as local businesses. In many cases, the entry for a person provides spousal and employment information. Since the directories are annual, they can help fill in blanks between censuses for a family history. Additionally, they are available for years after 1930.

Entries for businesses frequently provide the names of the corporate officers. Many city directories also contain a section listing the residents by address in addition to the alphabetical listing. This information is invaluable when researching the history of a house, business, or neighborhood.

Each directory has been scanned and the digital images subjected to an optical character recognition (OCR) process. Because the directories in some cases are very old, the text has faded and, while it is still readable to the human eye, the OCR process might not be as effective. In order to find the entry in which you are interested, you may have to browse the volume.

This year-long project not only increases access to our popular city directories collection but also helps to preserve it as well. Although the original books are still available, a digital copy may reduce handling of them and keep them in a usable condition longer. Additionally, the digital copy allows us to reprint a book if it becomes too damaged for continued use.

Late Night at the Library

Join the Special Collections Division and the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society for an evening of genealogy research. On Friday, September 28 the Library will close at its regular time of 6 pm. but will re-open for genealogists from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Mingle with fellow researchers as you uncover the details of your ancestry. Refreshments will be provided and parking is free in the High Street & East Market deck after 6 pm. For more information, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030.

CD-ROM Resources

By Cheri Goldner, Librarian

More and more genealogical and local historical information is being published in electronic rather than book form. Some records appear on the websites of local government offices, public libraries, or genealogical societies, while others are made available on CD-ROM. For this reason, Special Collections has added a new public computer dedicated to accessing historical and genealogical information stored on CD-ROM.

Some of the CD-ROMs in our collection have been copied to the computer's hard drive and are accessible from shortcuts on the computer's desktop. Others must be requested from the Special Collections reference desk. A document on the desktop explains what is available. Some of the sources in this growing collection include: the *National Burial Index for England & Wales* (over 13 million records extracted from 8,000 burial registers dating from 1538 to modern times with best coverage being the 19th century), the *Hungarian Village Finder, Atlas & Gazetteer, The Records of the Churches of Boston* and the *New York Genealogical & Biographical Record 1870-1960* with *Worden's Surname Index (1870-1998)* and *Article Index (1870-2001)*.

Each CD-ROM has a record in the Library's catalog and can be found by searching by title or subject. Although these discs do not circulate, you can now access them more easily than ever before.

Connecticut Yankees in Summit County

By Jane Gramlich, Librarian

What exactly is a “Yankee?” The word is thought to have come from the Dutch name *Janke*, and the meaning has evolved over the years and has had several definitions. To the rest of the world, a Yankee is an American; to Southerners, a Yankee is a Northerner; and to Northerners, a Yankee is a New Englander. One of the word’s original uses, in the eighteenth century, was as a nickname that the Dutch settlers of New York gave to the English colonists in Connecticut. This particular meaning was popularized by Mark Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* and remains a strong influence in our popular culture.

In order to appreciate the place of the Connecticut Yankees in Summit County’s history, it’s useful to understand the early development of the part of Northeast Ohio we call the Western Reserve. Its roots stretch back to the seventeenth century, a direct result of the lack of knowledge about the geography of the country, and the way in which the colonies were settled. Connecticut’s charter, granted by Charles II in 1662, specified its land as the area between the 41st and 42nd parallel, bounded on the west by the sea. In effect, it extended Connecticut all the way across the continent, cutting a swath of land through southern New York, Pennsylvania, and northern Ohio on its way to the Pacific.

At the time, the charter’s specifications meant little. Ohio didn’t yet exist, Pennsylvania and New York were barely settled provinces, and there was no need for firm boundaries when there were no colonists to govern. The problems started as the colonies grew, and conflicting royal land grants confused matters even further. Competing claims and Native American resistance led to fierce battles as New York and Pennsylvania fought for their borders. The need for reasonable political boundaries for purposes of government also became quickly apparent. In 1786, Connecticut ceded to Congress all lands to its west, except for an area west of Pennsylvania and south of Lake Erie

corresponding with its northern and southern borders, which it “reserved” for itself. A decade later, Connecticut sold this portion of land to a group of investors called the Connecticut Land Company. A surveying party, headed by Moses Cleaveland, left Dover, Connecticut in the spring of 1796 to prepare the land for sale and settlement. Soon, New England newspapers began to advertise land for sale in “New Connecticut,” and many began the long journey west to their new home.



This 1826 map of the Western Reserve doesn't show Summit County, which was formed in 1840 from parts of Portage, Medina and Stark Counties.

The Connecticut Yankees, then, were the ones who cleared the paths and opened the way for northeast Ohio’s development. Almost every township in what is now Summit County was settled by Connecticut emigrants, and their names and accomplishments have become part of our lives today. David Hudson arrived from Goshen, Connecticut in 1799, laying claim to the township he and two others had purchased. For a time, his settlement served as a hub for new land sales, and a place for weary travelers to take one last break, replenish supplies, and get advice from their predecessors before they moved on to their own land.

In 1805, Owen Brown arrived in Hudson from Torrington, Connecticut along with his family, which included 5-year-old John. David Hudson’s cousin, Birdseye Norton, settled and named a township to the southwest. Ariel Bradley of

Salisbury, Connecticut built the first log cabin in Mogadore Township in 1807. Miner Spicer, from Groton, came to Portage Township, now part of Akron, in 1811. The Rev. David Bacon had Tallmadge Township resurveyed to allow for a large circle at the center and designed six roads leading from it, allowing everyone to come to the meeting house built there a few years later. Joshua Stow of Middletown, Connecticut was the commissary manager for Cleaveland's surveying party. He purchased the township named for him and hired Judge William Wetmore to settle there and handle remaining sales. Twins Aaron and Moses Wilcox of North Killingsworth, Connecticut donated six acres to be used as a public square plus money to be used for a school in exchange for naming the place Twinsburg. By 1820, every one of the future Summit County's townships was settled, and the towns of Connecticut were well represented in them.

Among the most well-known Connecticut residents who settled here were General Simon Perkins, his son, Colonel Simon Perkins, and Jonathan Hale. Born in 1771 in Norwich, Connecticut, General Perkins first arrived in the Western Reserve in 1798 and played a significant role in business and politics, not the least of which was his founding of Akron in 1825 as the Ohio and Erie Canal was being built. He maintained a residence in Warren, but his son came to Akron in 1835 and made it his home. Hale was born in 1778 in Glastonbury and, along with Jason Hammond, settled Bath Township in 1810. General Perkins and Hale represent the two types of Connecticut Yankee which were necessary for the region's development: the capable business and political leader pursuing a variety of enterprises, and the solid, steady farmer who stayed in one place and carved out a living from the land. Another way in which these men left their mark is through their architecture. Both Hale and Colonel Perkins built brick houses reminiscent of the houses they knew in their home state, in Greek Revival and Federal styles. There are many other houses still standing in Summit County which, although less grand or widely known, bear the marks of a New England architect.

Another Connecticut Yankee who settled in Summit County was Samuel Lane, who was born in Suffield in 1815. He arrived in Akron in 1835 and played a prominent role in local civic affairs, eventually becoming mayor of Akron in 1881. He recorded his prolific knowledge of Akron in *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*, one of the few general histories of Akron in the nineteenth century.

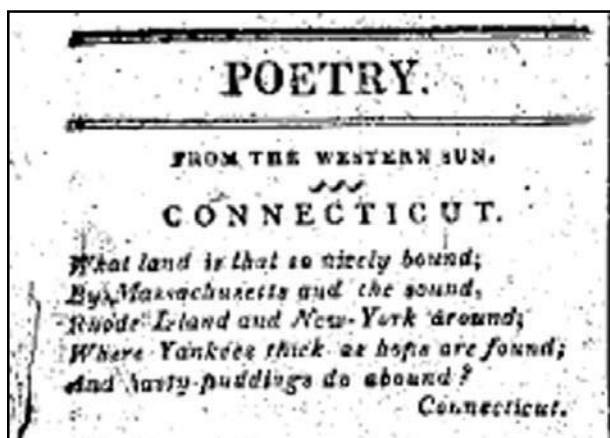
Many of the early Connecticut settlers had two distinct advantages which gave them the means and the ability to be trailblazers: education and capital. At the time, New England's education system was generally better than the rest of the colonies, leading to the knowledge needed for creating settlements, especially law. Additionally, over a century of its own establishment had led to significant concentrations of wealth. Joshua Stow, for example, purchased his township for \$14,154, a sum hard to come by at the turn of the nineteenth century. But we cannot give affluent Connecticut residents all the credit for settling the Western Reserve. The Yankees were the first to come here because they had the necessary resources. Their work was slow and difficult, but it paved the way for the later waves of settlers whose contributions were just as crucial for the development of the Reserve.

It's worth remembering that two of Summit County's townships, Franklin and Green, were not originally part of the Western Reserve, being below the 41st parallel. In 1840, the state legislature passed an act providing for the formation of Summit from ten townships of Portage County, four of Medina County, and two, Franklin and Green, of Stark County. Outside of those born in Ohio, the population in these townships was overwhelmingly from Pennsylvania, often of German or Scotch-Irish ancestry. They were among the most vocal opponents of the new county, not wanting to be part of "Cheesedom," the nickname given to the Western Reserve for its abundance of dairy farms.

The peculiar American phenomenon of the melting pot, however, was making the distinction less and less relevant. There were essentially two ways to get to northeast Ohio, either through New York State and along Lake Erie and southward, or through the

mountains of Pennsylvania and north up the rivers. Because of this, New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians closely followed the Yankees, and arrived in such numbers that the Yankees were overshadowed. A study of the 1850 census shows that despite a strong beginning, the influence of the Connecticut Yankee in Summit County was waning quickly. In 1850, only 6% of Summit County residents claimed Connecticut as their birthplace, compared to 12% who reported Pennsylvania nativity, and 11% who said New York. In addition, a new kind of pioneer from overseas was entering the scene. Immediately ranking behind residents born in Connecticut were those born in England, Ireland, and Germany. Already by 1850, Summit County was in transition towards a more diverse population of native born residents and immigrants from other countries.

Yet, the influence of the earliest settlers has survived. Our place names, the layout of our towns, and our architecture all attest to our county's roots in Connecticut. If you ever visit Hale Farm or the Simon Perkins mansion, or admire the plain white meeting house at Tallmadge Circle, or drive down Spicer Street near the University, or around the green in Hudson, remember that you are seeing the hand of the Connecticut Yankee, who helped design the landscape of today.



Pictured above is the first stanza of a nine-stanza poem that appeared on the front page of *The Ohio Repository* on November 20, 1823.

An Akron Haunting (continued)

The Detention Home moved to Dan Street in 1960. The Power Street building was used by the Summit County Children Services Board for awhile and served as the County's jail for women from 1982 to 1990.

Inmates and jail workers claimed to have heard footsteps and other strange noises. They believed the second floor, where Mrs. Bonham was killed, was active with paranormal activity. Windows would open and close on their own, the television and radio would turn on and off by themselves, and a typewriter would type without an operator. One witness claimed that a slice of pizza levitated out of her hand and a pen flew out of her pocket. One time, a cigarette sitting in an ashtray was knocked to the floor. A few deputies refused to visit the second floor.

The story spread. In 1989, an article about the "haunting" appeared in the *Akron Beacon Journal*. The accounts were repeated in the book *Haunted Ohio II* by Chris Woodyard.

Not all believed. Although some jail workers said they had never witnessed anything unusual in the building, those who claimed to have experienced supernatural activities were convinced there was a ghost among them. Even with the unnerving events, people sensed a good spirit.

The women's jail moved from the Power Street building in 1990. Oriana House, Inc. now occupies the location. Whether or not the current occupants have experienced any spine-tingling events is unknown, but those who have witnessed strange occurrences there in the past believe the building is haunted.

Online Records Update

The Utah State Division of Archives & History has published many indexes to vital records at <http://www.historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/>. Digital versions of the state's death certificates are also available from the same search. Although not all are online yet, Utah is planning to mount certificates from 1905 through 1956.

Donating Your Papers

In addition to providing genealogical resources and research assistance, the Special Collections Division collects, preserves, and provides access to items pertaining to the history, growth, and development of Summit County and its communities. These materials are available for use by the public during normal library hours and may be searched at any time through the Library's online catalog, the Local History Database, and the finding aids included on our website. Items may also be used in traditional or digital exhibits or in preparing articles for this newsletter.

By donating your personal family photographs, papers, and memorabilia or the records of your organization or business to the Library, you ensure that these materials will be preserved as a part of the history of our community and be available to future generations. The Library accepts donations of materials in any amount if the materials are pertinent to the collection. The materials need not be organized or arranged in any particular fashion, be related to well-known individuals, or necessarily be old. Collections of materials related to an individual local family, to the history of the local area, or in the case of an organization or business, inactive records, are of great interest.

Anyone interested in making a donation should contact Special Collections. A staff member will evaluate the materials offered and discuss any special needs, access to the collection, and copyright issues. If the collection is accepted, the donor will complete a deed of gift agreement transferring ownership of the materials to the Library. Please note that the Library cannot promise that the donated items will be used in certain ways, and Library staff may not give tax advice and or provide appraisals. If it is determined that the Akron-Summit County Public Library is not the proper facility for certain materials, every effort will be made to recommend a more appropriate facility.

Springfield Lake Park

By Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant

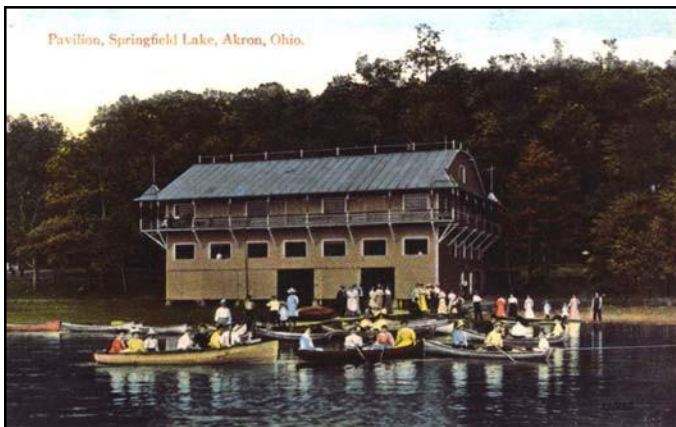
The smell of popcorn and cotton candy, homemade fudge and fresh squeezed lemonade. Carnival rides for thrill seekers and games of chance for the foolhardy. The laughter of excited children and from more than a few adults as well. Fatigue at the end of a long day spent at full throttle. Local residents will recall Summit Beach Park, Akron's premier amusement park which thrived for decades until closing in 1958. This is the story of another one of the many amusement parks that operated in Summit County – Springfield Lake Park.

A short distance southeast of Akron is the village of Lakemore located on the shores of Springfield Lake. Centrally located in the township of the same name, the lake is the largest in Summit County and the highest in elevation within the state. A pristine, picturesque location, local residents in the late 19th century used the area for camping and as a place to relax and enjoy a Sunday picnic with family and friends. However, the local populace weren't the only ones who had taken notice of the area. On November 26, 1900, the Canton-Akron Railway Co. was awarded a franchise from the Stark County commissioners and decided to connect the cities of Akron and Canton with an interurban (streetcar) railway. Demonstrating considerable forethought, the railway company deliberately plotted the right of way to within 200 feet of Springfield Lake, hoping to take advantage of any future development along the lakeshore. With thorough planning, the railway took especial care to schedule a regular stop at the lake and to construct a ticket station on site. The rail line was quickly completed, and regular service between Akron and Canton was inaugurated on May 16, 1902.

Early the following year, on February 7, 1903, the *Akron Beacon Journal* reported that the Canton-Akron Railway Co. was preparing to expand the existing picnic area with further improvements and intended to transform it into a "summer resort." In late August of 1905 Akron attorney David Martin purchased much of the real estate adjoining the southeast section of the lakefront and began to

develop the area into the cottage settlement envisioned by the railway. Private lots were surveyed and made available to the public for purchase. Small “getaway” bungalows were hurriedly constructed (with each dwelling receiving its own unique name) for affluent families wishing to enjoy a weekend residence away from the smoke and grime of the city.

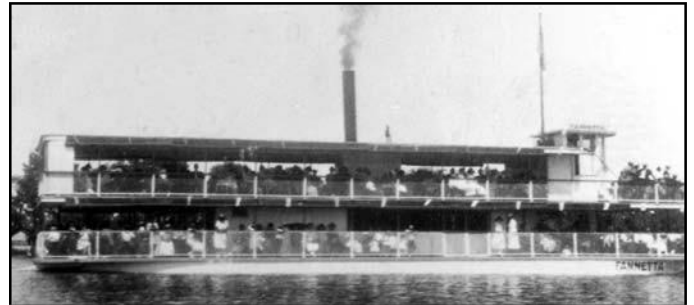
The next logical step in the development of the lake was to provide entertainment for the cottagers and to make it a destination for day trippers. By mid July of 1907, a multi-purpose pavilion on the lakefront had been completed. The interior of the pavilion consisted of a bathhouse on the ground floor, a restaurant and ice cream parlor on the 2nd floor, and a dancing hall, complete with resident orchestra, on the top floor. Dancing was available most nights of the week, and lessons were offered upon the dance floor which the *Akron Beacon Journal* pronounced was “unequalled in the vicinity.” Initially christened Highland Grove Park, the facility also featured its own semi-pro baseball team. Known informally as the “Highlanders” the team frequently played games there on summer weekends.



Postcard highlighting the Pavilion on Springfield Lake
c. 1910.

When Silver Lake Park closed for good in 1917, Springfield Lake Park picked up a portion of their patrons. One item purchased from Silver Lake was the small lake steamer that had plied the waters there. Cut into sections and sent overland by trucks, the boat was reassembled at Springfield Lake and

renamed the *Fannetta*. The *Fannetta* had a sailing capacity of 400 people and would slowly cruise around the lake with an orchestra and dance hall on the upper deck. The lower deck served as a lounge where refreshments were served. At about the same time, an additional 100-passenger launch named the *Damfyno* was constructed and made available for lake cruises. Together these two boats, along with several other smaller motorboats became collectively known tongue-in-cheek as the “Swiss Navy.”



Built in 1910 and christened the *Chautauquan*, the boat was later sold to Springfield Lake and renamed *Fannetta*.

While never on the same scale as Summit Beach Park, Springfield Lake did eventually boast a “scenic railway” and later a full-fledged roller coaster known as the Radio Streak. Constructed before the opening of the 1923 season for the then-extravagant fee of \$30,000, it was dubbed the Radio Streak in a public contest. Additionally, dodge ‘em cars, a carousel, a shooting gallery, roller skating, boating, fishing, and canoe rental were all available.

During the early years of the park, it was also the preeminent swimming (then known as “bathing”) destination in the county. Advertisements trumpeted a fine sandy beach and noted that there were “plenty of bathing suits to fit the entire family.” During this era, swim suits were available for daily rental. Through the mid 1920s low attendance at the park was not a problem, with large groups such as the Eagles or West Virginia Society scheduling their annual gatherings here. The park was also enormously popular for factory outings such as those from Goodyear or General Tire.

Due to the worsening economic depression, attendance at the park was down, but when a park employee entrusted with operating the Radio Streak failed to apply the brakes during opening weekend in 1930, the repercussions were devastating. Not only were several lawsuits initiated by those who had been injured, but patrons were afterwards hesitant to ride the coaster, arguably the park's biggest draw.



Radio Streak, the roller coaster at Springfield Lake Park.
Photograph courtesy of the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

Another contributor to the decline of the park was the popularity of motion pictures. By the late 1920s Akron boasted upwards of twenty theaters. More and more people were electing to spend their money at the movies which usually had the added benefit of being air conditioned. By 1932, the park was in financial difficulties. Put up for public auction, the park's assets returned only the smallest fraction of their true worth for a grand total of roughly \$2,000. This included the Radio Streak, which was dismantled and sold to another park in Bucyrus, Ohio and the launch, which had drifted away from the dock and sank in the middle of the lake. Although dancing and orchestra music remained popular for several more years in the pavilion, the few rides left soon ceased operating altogether, a victim of the depression and changing attitudes.

Today, visitors will find very few visible remains of the park to remind them of the area that was once a hub of activity. The ticket station and various outbuildings of the park are long gone. Several of the original cottages remain and having been remodeled and modernized are now permanent residences. Green grass and trees have replaced the midway. Parts of the interurban railway can still be seen, the ballast and cinders of the roadbed successfully resisting the encroaching weeds and adjacent woods. The dancing pavilion has been drastically altered from its original design over the years but lives on as the Springfield Lake roller rink. As it was more than 100 years ago, the only constant is the sound of the lake gently lapping at the shore.

OGS Fall Seminar to Feature George K. Schweitzer

The 2007 Fall Seminar of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) will take place on Saturday, October 6, 2007 from 9 am – 4:30 pm at the James W. Kehoe Center for Advanced Learning at North Central State College's Shelby Campus (175 Mansfield St/SR39, Shelby Ohio). The featured speaker will be well-known author and lecturer George K. Schweitzer.

Schweitzer is an Alumni Distinguished Professor at the University of Tennessee and holds BA, MS and PhD degrees in chemistry, an MA in the history of religion, a PhD in history, and an ScD in philosophy of science. He is the author of 19 genealogical guidebooks and has lectured to over 200 genealogical and historical societies in the United States, Canada, England and Germany. His lectures use historical reenactment to teach genealogy and are both entertaining and informative. The day's events will include costumed lectures on Civil War Genealogy, Cherokee Genealogy, and transportation. Books will be available for purchase.

Cost is \$30 for OGS members who pay by October 1 or \$35 at the door and for non-members. For more information or to sign up, contact the Ohio Genealogical Society at 713 South Main Street, Mansfield, OH 44907-1644, phone: 419.756.7294, email: ogs@ogs.org.

Summit County Myths Wiki

The Special Collections Division has launched a wiki to provide access to Summit County myths and legends, <http://summitcountymyths.pbwiki.com/>.

Because a wiki is a simple online database that anyone with internet access and a browser can edit, it is the ideal technology for gathering and publishing the myths and quirky historical facts that make our community unique. Click on the link above to browse our current batch of myths and then click on [Add a myth](#) to share your knowledge of local lore with the community. For more information on the Summit County Myths Wiki, contact Joanne O'Dell at 330.643.9030 or jodell@akronlibrary.org.

Local History Events

Young at Heart-Shadows of the Past

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

Wednesday, September 26, 10:15 am

Cuyahoga Valley National Park has been shaped by more than ice and wind; it has also been shaped by those who have come before. Join Park Ranger Pamela Machuga and costumed volunteers to explore the lives of those who lived, died, and forever changed this valley. Allow 1 1/2 hours. The Young at Heart series are primarily for ages 55 and over, but all are welcome. The cost is \$15 adults; \$7 seniors (55+); \$8 child 3-12. Reservations are required. For more information, please see <http://www.cvsr.com/> or to register please call 800.468.4070.

17th Annual Barberton Mum Fest

City of Barberton Beautification Program

Saturday & Sunday, September 29-30, 10 am-6 pm

Come to Lake Anna for the flowers, stay for the celebration. The dazzling flowers provide a brilliant backdrop for free family entertainment, historic views of Barberton and arts & crafts. The City of Barberton will honor its living World War II Veterans with a special ceremony Sunday 1:30 at the War Memorial. For more information, see <http://www.cityofbarberton.com/govt/MumFest/>.

Guided Hiking Tours of the Park

Cascade Locks Park Association

Sunday, October 7, 3 pm

Come walk with one of our experts along the newly completed leg of the Towpath Trail. Learn about the history of the Cascade Locks from lock 10 through 16. For more information, please call 330.374.5625.

Taste of Scotland

Scottish American Society

Saturday, October 27, 10 am-4 pm

This fund raiser for the Tigh na Creige Highland Dancers features food and dance. There will be a Scottish breed dog show and many other events. Join us at the new Northwest Family Recreation Center, 1720 Shatto Av. For more information, see <http://www.scottishamericansociety.org/>.

Farm House Suppers

Hale Farm & Village

Fridays & Saturdays in November, 6-9 pm

These very special Farmhouse dinners offer an unforgettable evening experience back in time. Enjoy three hours living in the Civil War Era in the year 1862 with hearty foods prepared by hosts and guests together. Stirring conversation, amusing games and a tour of the historic home complete the memorable evening. Each Farmhouse Supper is limited to 12 people. For more information, please call 330.666.3711.

Genealogy Events

Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census

ASCPL, Special Collections

Saturday, September 15, 10-11:30 am

U.S. Census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using them effectively. Sessions are held in computer lab 1 in the main library and attendees should have basic computer skills. The class is free and open to the public. To sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Getting Started in Family History

ASCPL, Special Collections

Saturday, September 22, 10-11:30 am

This orientation session for new family historians includes an overview of the genealogical sources

available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. The class meets in the Special Collections Division of Main Library and is free and open to the public. Contact Special Collections to sign up at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Late Night at the Library

Special Collections & Summit County OGS

Friday, September 28, 6:30-10:30 pm

Join us for an evening of genealogy research. All levels of knowledge and experience are welcome. Staff and OGS volunteers will be available to provide assistance. Parking in the High Street Deck is free after 6 pm and refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Annual Family History Benefit Seminar

Cuyahoga County Council of Genealogical Orgs.

Saturday, September 27, 9 am-3:30 pm

This year's keynote speaker is Curt B. Witcher, Manager of the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. Other topics include Passenger & Immigration Research, Mega Internet Sites for Genealogists, Historical Research Methodology, and Effective Use of the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department. The cost is \$20 before September 15 or \$25 at the door of Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road. For more information, please call 440.899.9201.

Genealogy Lock-in

Hudson Genealogical Study Group

Friday, October 5, 5:30 pm-12 am

Join us at the Hudson Library & Historical Society for advanced ancestry searching and 1812 Society research. For more information, please contact Gwen Mayer at 330.653.6658.

Annual Seminar

Ohio Genealogical Society

Saturday, October 6, 9 am-4 pm

The 3rd Annual Seminar features George Schweitzer, author of 19 Genealogical Guidebooks. Join us at the Kehoe Center for Advanced Learning

(North Central State College), 175 Mansfield Av. in Shelby, Ohio for presentations on: Civil War Genealogy, Cherokee Genealogy Research, and Rivers to Trails to Roads to Canals to Trains. There will be an Open House Reception following the seminar at the OGS Library in Mansfield. The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non members. For more information, please see

<http://www.ogs.org/fallseminar.php>.

Genealogical Librarian's Seminar

Ohio Genealogical Society

Friday, October 12, 9:30 am-3 pm

The 4th annual seminar includes presentations on: Decisions for the Local History Room Archivist, Introduction to Digital Projects, How They Lived: Social History & Genealogical Research, and Mini-Topics in Historical/Genealogical Community. For more information, please see

<http://www.ogs.org/librarians.php>.

Italian Family History Seminar

Western Reserve Historical Society

Saturday, October 13, 9 am – 4 pm

John Philip Colletta, national genealogical lecturer and author of three books, will speak on passenger lists, naturalization records, Italian research and discovering ancestor stories. For more information, contact Nancy Leinweber at 440.205.1942.

Getting Started in Family History

ASCPL, Special Collections

Tuesday, October 16, 6:30-8 pm

This orientation session for new family historians includes an overview of the genealogical sources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. The class meets in the Special Collections Division of Main Library and is free and open to the public. Contact Special Collections to sign up at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Discovering Clues to Date Old Photographs

Summit County Chapter of OGS

Saturday, October 20, 1 pm

Kelly Holderbaum, Vice President of the Summit County OGS, will share what she learned at the April Ohio Genealogy Conference. She will touch on

the different types of photographs, the different ways to date them and give some tips on how to preserve your photos. Join us ASCPL's Main Library and bring your photographs.

Eastern European Research Workshop

Hudson Genealogical Study Group

Saturday, October 27, 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Lisa Alzo of the Cleveland Jewish Genealogical Group will present a case study. Join us in the Hudson Library & Historical Society's Flood Family Meeting room. For more information, please contact Gwen Mayer at 330.653.6658.

Manuscripts & Other Overlooked Sources

Genealogical Committee, an auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society

Saturday, November 3, 12 – 3 pm

Learn to solve research problems by locating and acquiring copies of one-of-a-kind materials housed in facilities around the country. The cost of the seminar is \$15 (\$20 after October 27) and held in Hassler Room of the WRHS Library. For more information or to register, contact Roger Ellsworth at 216.229.7887.

Using Maps in Genealogy

Hudson Genealogical Study Group

Saturday, November 10, 9:30 am

Tom Edwards from the Map Library of Cleveland Public Library will discuss how to use maps effectively in your genealogy research. Join us in the Hudson Library & Historical Society's Flood Family Meeting room. For more information, please contact Gwen Mayer at 330.653.6658.

Getting Started in Family History

ASCPL, Special Collections

Saturday, November 17, 10-11:30 am

This orientation session for new family historians includes an overview of the genealogical sources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. The class meets in the Special Collections Division of Main Library and is free and open to the public. Contact Special Collections to sign up at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Getting Started in Family History

ASCPL, Special Collections

Tuesday, December 11, 6:30-8 pm

This orientation session for new family historians includes an overview of the genealogical sources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. The class meets in the Special Collections Division of Main Library and is free and open to the public. Contact Special Collections to sign up at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Dorothy C. Adams for *Vinka Ellesin: Golden Anniversary Testimonial and Souvenir Book*

William W. and Betty J. Cox for materials pertaining to the Mohawk Rubber Company

Ellen Daugherty for *The Garber Historical and Genealogical Record* by Clark M. Garber

Family History Center Library, Tallmadge for microfilmed Portage County newspapers and court records

Patricia Lowry for the estate of Robert W. Little for Ohio historical atlases on microfilm

Oak Harbor Public Library, Oak Harbor, Ohio for bible containing genealogical notes on the Darling, Hawes, and Rice families

Mark Price and the *Akron Beacon Journal* for CD: *Evan Williams*

David Snyder for photograph of the Fulkerson log house in Summit County

Sylvia White for 2 copies of CD: *Mixed-Up Strings*

New to the Collection

Alabama

Abstracts from Alabama newspapers, Volume I
Autauga County, Alabama cemetery records:
western section
Baker/Chilton County, Alabama marriages, 1870-93
Burial records, Mobile County, Alabama, 1820-70
Burial records, Mobile County, Alabama: index for
Volume I, 1820-1856
Cemeteries of Elmore County, Alabama 2 vols.
Death and marriage notices from the Montgomery
Advertiser (1881)
Death, marriage and legal notices from Tallapoosa
County, Alabama newspapers (1860-90)
Death notices from Limestone County newspapers,
1828-91
Index to wills of Madison County, 1808-1900
Marriage records of Shelby County, 1900-1930
Marriages, Coffee County, Alabama
Marriages of Morgan County, Alabama, 1818-1896
Mobile County, Alabama death records, 1843-1922
Pickens County, Alabama cemetery records, 1983
Place names in Alabama
Remount Memorial Cemetery: Montgomery County
Montgomery County marriage books: A-E, 1817-50
Montgomery County marriages: Vol 2 & 3, Books
2A & 2; Books 3, 4 & 5. 1850-1877
Montgomery County will books, 1822-1854
Transcriptions from deeds & mortgages, Autauga
County, Alabama (1820-1833)

Connecticut

The history of ancient Windsor, Connecticut,
including East Windsor, South Windsor and
Ellington prior to 1763...2 vols.

Georgia

History of Gwinnett County, Georgia. 2 vols.
Houston County, Georgia: history & biography
Houston County, marriage records, 1822-1852
Index to J.C. Flanigan's History of Gwinnett
County, Georgia: 1818-1960, vol. II

Kentucky

Fayette County, marriage index, 1795-1855
Garrard County, wills and estates, 1796-1819 v. 1
Garrard County, will abstracts, v. 2: 1818-1833
Grayson County, birth records, v. 2: 1874-76; 1878
Grayson County, death records: 1852-59; 1861;
1874-78; 1902-04; 1906-07
Green County, births: 1852-53; 1855-59; 1861-79;
1904
Green County, deaths: 1852; 54-1859; 1861-78;
1904
Harrison County, marriages, 1794-1832
Jessamine County, marriage index, 1785-1822
Mercer County, wills and estates. v. II: 1808-21
Monroe County, birth records: 1852-60; 1874-76;
1878; 1894; 1907
Monroe County, death records: 1852-58; 1876-1878
Nicholas County, death records: 1852-58; 1876-78

Maine

Maine probate records, 2 vols. 1687-1800

Maryland

Divorces & names changed in Maryland by Act of
the Legislature, 1634-1867

Mississippi

Abstracts of Marion County, 2nd District marriage
records (held in Lamar County, MS)
Descendants of early settlers of Perry County
The early tax records, Tallahatchie County 1834-51
Enumeration of Confederate soldiers and widows
for Montgomery County, Mississippi, 1907
Eskridge's early history of Tallahatchie County
Marriages and deaths from Mississippi newspapers.
volume I: 1837-63
Marshall County, probate and will records
Mississippi marriage records to 1900: A-CL (males)
Mississippi soldiers: Revolutionary, 1812, Indian
and Mexican wars
Montgomery Co., abstracts of wills: Books I, II, III
Neshoba County, tract book records, 1833-1900
Veterans of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi
The Woodville Republican, Mississippi's oldest
existing newspaper. Volume 4: June 22, 1878-
December 25, 1880

New Jersey

Runaways of colonial New Jersey: indentured servants, slaves, deserters and prisoners, 1720-81
Sussex County, New Jersey marriage & obituary dates (1814-1903): information for the years spanning 1814-1895

New York

Erie Canal legacy: architectural treasures of the Empire State
Index to marriages & deaths in the New York World, 1860-65

North Carolina

1755 New Hanover County, North Carolina tax list
1755 Orange (North Carolina tax series)
1769 Onslow County, North Carolina tax list
1779 Randolph (North Carolina tax series)
1786 Wayne County, North Carolina tax listing
Abstracted wills of Buncombe County, 1831-1872
Abstracted wills of Catawba County, 1842-1870
Cabarrus County, marriage records, 1783-1868
Cumberland County, marriage records, 1803-1878
Davidson County, marriage records, 1823-1868
Guilford County, land grants, 1778-1934
Guilford County, marriage records, 1771-1868
Land grant records of North Carolina: v. I, Orange County, 1752-1885
New Hanover County, marriage records, 1779-1868
North Carolina bastardy bonds
North Carolina gazetteer: a dictionary of Tar Heel places
Onslow County, marriage records, 1764-1867
Orange County, marriage records, 1782-1868
Randolph County, marriage records, 1785-1868
Robeson County, marriage records, 1799-1868
Wake County, marriage records, 1781-1867

Ohio

Akron-Canton baseball heritage
Birth records transcribed from the Bellaire Health Department, Belmont County, 2 vols. 1909- 20; 1936-75
Burial records for Greenwood Cemetery, Bellaire Cemeteries, Warren County, Ohio (map)
Death records transcribed from the Bellaire Health Department, Bellaire, Belmont County,: v. 1 (1904-1935)

Decorative arts of Ohio's Sonnenberg Mennonites
Early veterans' graves of Belmont County, Ohio:
 Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War
The history of Chatham Township, Medina County, Ohio: 1818-1993. Index.
Index to McKelvey's Centennial History of Belmont County, Ohio (1801-1901)
Ohio's war: the Civil war in documents
Pedigree charts of the Cumberland Trail Genealogical Society (Belmont County)
Your guide to the cemeteries of Belmont County,

Rhode Island

Baptisms and marriages of Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church, Mapleville, 1905-1995
Baptisms of Holy Family Catholic Church, Woonsocket, 1902-1991
Baptisms of Notre-Dame Catholic Church, Central Falls, 1873-1988. 2 vols.
Baptisms of Precious Blood Catholic Church, Woonsocket, 1870-1995. 3 vols.
Baptisms of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, Pawtucket, 1910-1988
Baptisms of St. James Catholic Church, Manville, 1860-1991
Baptisms of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Pawtucket, 1884-1988
Baptisms of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, West Warwick 1873-1989. 2 vols.
Baptisms of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ashton, 1872-1920
Baptisms of St. Matthew Catholic Church, Central Falls, 1906-1988
Baptisms of the First Universalist Church, Woonsocket, 1834-1998
Burials of Holy Family Catholic Church, Woonsocket, 1902-1987
Burials of Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church, Mapleville, 1905-1995
Burials of St. Matthew Catholic Church, Central Falls, 1906-1988
Burials of the First Universalist Church, Woonsocket, 1834-1998
Burials of the Manning-Heffern Funeral Home, Pawtucket, 1874-1980. 3 vols.

Rhode Island (continued)

Burials of the Potvin Funeral Home, West
Warwick, 2 vols, 1863-1960
The French-Canadian marriages of St. Lawrence
Church, Centredale, 1907-1970
Gleanings from Newport court files, 1659-1783
Marriages of Holy Family Catholic Church,
Woonsocket, 1909-1986
Marriages of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic
Church, Phenix, 1897-1966
Marriages of Precious Blood Catholic Church,
Woonsocket, 1870-1995. 2 vols.
Marriages of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church,
Pawtucket, 1884-1988
Marriages of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church,
West Warwick, (Arctic), 2 vols, 1873-1980
Marriages of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Natick,
1875-1989
Marriages of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ashton,
1872-1986
Marriages of St. Louis Catholic Church,
Woonsocket, 1902-1987
Marriages of St. Matthew Catholic Church, Central
Falls, 1906-1988
Marriages of Ste-Anne Catholic Church,
Woonsocket,
Marriages of the First Universalist Church,
Woonsocket, 1834-1998

South Carolina

The cemeteries of northern Richland County
Edgefield County, deed book 41
Laurens County, will book A, Vol, II, 1840-1853
Laurens County, will book A-C, 1777-1809
The Mercantile Agency Reference Book (and key),
containing ratings of merchants, manufacturers
and traders generally:

Tennessee

Blount County: history of Tennessee
Carter County, death record abstracts, 1926-34
Chickamauga Reservoir cemeteries
Fort Loudoun Reservoir cemeteries
Gravestone inscriptions from Shelby County,
3 vols.
Greene County, death record abstracts: v. I, 1908-18

History of Blount County: from war trail to landing
stripe, 1795-1955
Knox County, marriage records, 1792-1837
Montgomery County, 1798 tax list
Shelby County, marriage records, 1819-1850
Shelby County, WPA records
Sullivan County death records, 1908-1918
Sullivan County, deed book. 2 volumes. 1775-1795
Sumner County, Bible records
Sumner County, miscellaneous records: church,
marriage, cemetery & Civil War Muster Roll
Tennessee history & biographies: Montgomery
County
Thirty-eighth annual catalog of officers and pupils
of Friendsville Academy
Washington County, history of Tennessee: from the
earliest time to the present...
Widows' dowers of Washington County, 1803-1899
Williamson County: history of Tennessee
Williamson County, marriage index, 1804-79

Virginia

Adventurers of purse and person: Virginia, 1607-
1624/5. Volume 3: families R-Z
Birth from the Bristol Parish register of Henrico,
Prince George and Dinwiddie counties, 1720-98
Graven stones: inscriptions from lower Accomack
County, including Liberty & Parksley cemeteries
History & comprehensive description of Loudon Co
Old homes and buildings in Amelia County, 2 vols.
The vestry book of Petsworth Parish, Gloucester
County: 1677-1793
The vestry book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover
County: 1706-1786
Virginia immigrants and adventurers, 1807-1635:
a biographical dictionary

West Virginia

Barbour County, death records, 5 vols.: 1920-69
Obituaries of Boone & surrounding counties, v. 5:
1946-1949
Braxton County, deaths, vols. 5 & 6: 1941-1969
Braxton County, marriages, vols. 3 & 4: 1933-1967
Calhoun County, deaths, vols. 1 & 2: 1909-1969
Calhoun County, marriages, vols. 2 & 3: 1927-1969
Doddridge County, Hardesty's Biographical Atlas,
1882

West Virginia (continued)

Early court records, Kanawha County, 1789-1903
Gilmer County, marriages, 1933-1969
Grant County, marriages. 3 vols. 1866-1969
Hardesty biographical atlas of Monroe County, 1882
Hardy County, marriages. 3 vols. 1795-1970
Harrison County, marriages, 1912-1920
History of Leachtown
A history of Lee Creek Community (Wood County)
History of Locus Valley Community, Wood County
A history of Mineral Wells Community, Wood County
A history of Monroe County
History of Quakertown Community, Wood County
Index to obituaries in the Parkersburg News, 1930-1989. 6 vols.
Kanawha County early marriage records, 1788-1853
Kanawha County, marriage record, 1885-1898
Kanawha County, marriages, 1854-1868: includes parents of bride and groom, place of birth and marital status
Mason County, death records, 1853-1916. 3 vols.
Mason County, marriages, 5 vols. 1806-1924
Monongalia County, deaths, 1924-1970: A, B, C
Ritchie County, marriages, 1945-1970
Roane County, Hardesty's Biographical Atlas, 1884
Roane County, marriages, 2 vols. 1934-1967
Tucker County, marriages, 1856-1907
Wood County, deaths, 1905-1939. 7 vols.

United States

American maritime prisoners in the Revolutionary War: the captivity of William Russell
The handy book for genealogists: United States of America, 11th ed.
A century of Negro migration
Quicksheet: citing online historical resources

Military

Civil War roll call: Glendale Cemetery, Akron
Finding your father's war: a practical guide to researching and understanding service in the World War II US Army
Ninety-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry: with the Civil War letters of Lt. Col. Benjamin Franklin Coates and an annotated roster of the men of Co. C
Sons of the mountains: the Highland regiments in the French & Indian War, 1756-1767. 2 vols.
Volunteer soldiers in the Cherokee War, 1836-1839

Reference

Ancestral trails: the complete guide to British genealogy and family history, 2nd ed.
Trace your roots with DNA: using genetic tests to explore your family tree
Tracing ancestors in Barbados: a practical guide

Canada

The Irish in Newfoundland, 1600-1900: their trials, tribulations and triumphs

Germany

German-American names, 3rd ed.

Ireland

Irish names and surnames
Passengers from Ireland: lists of passengers arriving at American ports between 1811-1817

Russia

Migration from the Russian Empire. v. 3-6. May 1886-June 1891

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of the Akron-Summit County Public Library,
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Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
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Scotland

Scots-Scandinavian links in Europe & America,
1550-1850

Scottish Highlanders on the eve of the great
migration, 1725-75: the people of Highland
Perthshire

Scottish Highlanders on the eve of the great
migration, 1725-75: the people of Inverness shire

Genealogies

Pocahontas' descendants: a revision, enlargement
and extension of the list as set out by Wyndham
Robertson in his book Pocahontas and her
Descendants (1887): fourth and fifth corrections
and additions

Family History

The Garber historical and genealogical record:
devoted to the history and genealogy of the
Garber family in America

Virtual Genealogy Support

The State Library of Ohio transferred its genealogy collection to the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Genealogy, History and Travel Department on April 19, 2007. While the State Library no longer serves walk-ins or corresponding genealogy patrons, it continues to promote genealogy virtually. They have recently created a blog entitled "Ohio's Genealogy Blog." This blog is intended for Ohio's genealogical community as a service of the State Library of Ohio. Postings will focus on assisting Ohio librarians serving genealogists and promoting virtual genealogy in Ohio. State Library of Ohio Genealogy Specialist Paul Immel will be posting comments about research, issues, events, and the future of virtual genealogy. Read the blog at <http://statelibraryohiogen.blogspot.com/>.